IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 144, 151-153 and 155-163 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 7, 8, 143, 145, 146, and 154.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases a binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) and an activity of a L16 protein comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether the compound increases the binding activity of efp; and

(c) comparing the activity of a L16 protein in the presence of the compound to the activity of a L16 protein in the absence of the compound;

wherein an increase in the activity of a L16 protein in the presence of the compound, but not in the absence of the compound, is indicative of increased efp binding activity. ~~determining whether the compound that increases the activity of efp increases an activity of a L16 protein.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases a binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; ~~and~~

(b) determining whether the compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay; and

(c) comparing the binding activity of efp in the absence of the compound to the binding activity of efp in the presence of the compound;

wherein an increase in binding activity in the presence of the compound is indicative of a compound that increases the binding activity of the efp.

9 to 142. (Canceled)

143. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases a binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; ~~and~~

(b) determining whether the compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether the intrinsic fluorescence is decreased by the binding, wherein the intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured by a change in the fluorescence of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp; and

(c) comparing the fluorescence of efp in the presence of the compound to the fluorescence of efp in the absence of the compound,

~~wherein the fluorescence of efp is measured and compared to the fluorescence intensity of efp in the presence of the compound,~~ wherein a decrease in fluorescence intensity indicates binding of efp and wherein a decrease in the intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that the compound decreases the binding activity of efp.

144. (canceled)

145. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases a binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) and an activity of a L16 protein comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether the compound decreases the binding activity of efp; and

(c) comparing the activity of a L16 protein in the presence of the compound to the activity of a L16 protein in the absence of the compound;

wherein an decrease in the activity of a L16 protein in the presence of the compound, but not in the absence of the compound, is indicative of decreased efp binding activity n. ~~determining whether the compound that decreases the binding activity of efp decreases an activity of a L16 protein.~~